

2014 Seattle City Council Green Sheet

Ready for Notebook

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62	1	A	1

Budget Action Title: Add \$50,000 GSF to SOCR for annual audit of housing discrimination

Has CIP Amendment: No Has Budget Proviso: No

Councilmembers: Burgess; Harrell; Licata; O'Brien

Staff Analyst: Rebecca Herzfeld

Council Bill or Resolution:

Date		Total	SB	BH	TR	RC	TB	NL	JG	SC	MO
	Yes										
	No										
	Abstain										
	Absent										

Summary of Dollar Effect

See the following pages for detailed technical information

	2013 Increase (Decrease)	2014 Increase (Decrease)
General Subfund		
General Subfund Revenues	\$0	\$0
General Subfund Expenditures	\$0	\$50,000
Net Balance Effect	\$0	(\$50,000)
Total Budget Balance Effect	\$0	(\$50,000)

Budget Action description:

This budget action would add \$50,000 GSF to the Seattle Office for Civil Rights (SOCR) to fund an audit of housing discrimination practices. This funding would pay for consultant resources to perform the testing and additional staffing hours from an existing part-time position in SOCR to manage the contract. The data and other information gathered from the audit would improve SOCR's ability to identify discriminatory housing practices, file charges where appropriate, share results, and implement community education and outreach strategies.

SOCR received federal grant funding for a housing audit in 2011 that focused on African-Americans and person with disabilities. Overall, 55% of the tests showed evidence of illegal discrimination. In the tests for race-based discrimination, 69% showed patterns of inconsistencies that generally favored white testers. In the tests for disability-based discrimination, 38% showed patterns of inconsistencies that create barriers for people with disabilities.

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It is the Council's intent that the Executive fund annual housing audits in future years, at a minimum of \$50,000 plus inflation. Annual audits would raise landlord and tenant awareness of the City's anti-discrimination laws, improve compliance rate, and provide an opportunity to test for discrimination against a variety of protected groups. For example, the proposed 2014 audit would focus on discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender individuals and on those whose country of origin is not the United States.

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Budget Action Transactions

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#	Transaction Description	Position Title	Number of Positions	FTE	Dept	BCL or Revenue Source	Summit Code	Fund	Year	Revenue Amount	Expenditure Amount
1	Increase GSF appropriation for housing audit				OCR	Civil Rights	X1R00	00100	2014		\$50,000